

From: Richard Dynes
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:10pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hi,

I've been informed that you are soliciting public feedback on the Microsoft settlement.

I'm very disappointed in the settlement between the DoJ and Microsoft. As far as I can see, it does nothing to address the proven illegal and continuing anti-competitive practices of Microsoft.

Microsoft has twin operating monopolies: Desktop Operating Systems, and Office Automation software. Microsoft used their OS monopoly to force Internet Explorer onto consumers, crushing Netscape in the process. This is not the first time Microsoft has manipulated their ownership of the OS to affect the competitiveness of competitors in other spaces: Lotus' 123 product comes to mind.

Microsoft continues this practice today: Since their office automation applications are only available on their operating system, they are using these twin monopolies TODAY to take over the mobile and palmtop computing market. You can read ads in the trade magazine InfoWorld where Microsoft proclaims PocketPC as superior because it's the only mobile computing solution where Microsoft's office automation applications run.

They are, today, using their twin monopolies to build a third: mobile computing platforms.

The proposed settlement doesn't address past OR current behavior. Allowing computer manufacturer's some freedom in what they put on the Microsoft Windows desktop merely codifies the status quo.

The proposed remedies would not have prevented what Microsoft did with Netscape, and will not prevent Microsoft from constructing further monopolies from their existing ones.

Microsoft did real harm to, and has inhibited innovation and competition in the industry. Today we have software that has security risks, defects, and instabilities, yet we truly have no alternatives, because that software is from Microsoft. The rash of viruses that have cost untold hours of lost productivity are largely Microsoft's doing, yet are accepted because there simply is no alternative.

The proposed remedy is inadequate, and I feel it is a capitulation of the DoJ to Microsoft in this matter.

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